

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 825

By Miller D

A RESOLUTION to commend Sergeant Jemice Dandridge for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee and the United States of America.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedoms, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to honor those many valiant men and women who continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through military service; and

WHEREAS, one such esteemed soldier who serves with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for her remarkable service in the Tennessee Army National Guard is Jemice Dandridge, who, on February 24, 2012, received promotion from the rank of Specialist to the rank of Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, assigned to the 230th Signal Battalion and stationed in Bagram, Afghanistan, Sgt. Dandridge is enjoying a brief period of rest and relaxation at home in Nashville before returning to her assigned duties as Assistant Night Operations Battle Captain; and

WHEREAS, deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Sgt. Dandridge has performed her duties in a manner beyond reproach. She constantly endeavors to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of the Tennessee Army National Guard, and she is proving herself to be worthy of accolades for her consistent demonstration of competence, bravery, and fortitude; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her prowess and performance, Sgt. Dandridge has thrice been awarded the Medal of Honor Army Achievement Medal, distinctions of which she is exceedingly proud and most deserving; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Dandridge is cherished and adored by her loving mother, Ann Elizabeth Sharfner, a beloved member of the Legislative Staff of this esteemed body, and each member and colleague joins her in evincing great pride in Sgt. Dandridge's willingness to stand

and serve in defense of liberty and freedom, not only for her mother Nation but for the peoples of nations around the world who desire democracy and peace; and

WHEREAS, her military adroitness notwithstanding, Sgt. Dandridge is the devoted and doting mother of Jemiya Annae; other loved ones who affectionately and prayerfully support her include her sister, Lethia, aunt, Paula Dandridge, god grandmother, Esther Sharpe-Church, nephew, JeJuan T. Hamer, Jr., and niece, Rae'gan K. Sharfner; and

WHEREAS, it is with the utmost appreciation and respect that this body should regale Sgt. Dandridge's unswerving commitment to military service and applaud the deep personal and familial sacrifices she has made in deference to America's quest to remain strong and free and to support the evolution of democracy in countries all across the face of this earth; and

WHEREAS, as her reprieve from duty comes to a close and she returns into harm's way, earnestly and sincerely this body does beseech our great Heavenly Father to bestow safety from harm on Sgt. Dandridge and all of her comrades, imploring that she and each of them will return able to report successful accomplishment of every intended mission; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Sergeant Jemice Dandridge for her excellence in military service to the United States of America and to the good people of Tennessee and congratulate her on her recent promotion. We are humbled by the courage and conviction she displays in the performance of duties, even in the face of war-time dangers, and we extend to her our best wishes for boundless success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we thank Ann Sharfner for her strong, courageous, and patriotic daughter, and we genuinely appreciate her tireless efforts to maintain family unity and stability during the time of her daughter's absence to duty. We pledge to support her as she supports from the home front the cause that has made this Nation great and dominant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.